(c) the details of funds granted and utilized in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) No Telephone Exchanges in Arunachal Pradesh have been converted into electronic exchanges during last three years, as all the exchanges are already electronic exchanges.

Bringing TRAI under CAG

1921. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the larger interests of the public, out of whose money regulatory bodies that have been created, there is a move to bring the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) within the ambit of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India;

(b) whether TRAI had consistently remained passive on crucial matters like grey market calls causing loss to the public exchequer by declining to adjudicate complaints from BSNL and on the creation of Universal Service Fund to implement rural telecom projects; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is within the ambit of Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) by virtue of sub-section 2 and 3 of Section 23 of the TRAI Act under which C&AG audit the accounts of TRAI.

(b) and (c) Under the TRAI Act, TRAI can investigate complaints but it does not have powers to adjudicate on complaints.

Universal Service Obligation Fund (USO Fund) was created by the Central Government in April, 2002 on the basis of the recommendations received from TRAI

Surrender of telephones

1922 SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of landline telephone connections surrendered by the subscribers of both MTNL and BSNL till March, 2005;

(b) the steps taken by Government to promote landline telephone connections;

(c) whether it is a fact that after a gap of some more years the existence of landline telephone connections would be a question mark; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to avoid untimely death of landline telephones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The total number of landline telephone connections surrendered by the subscribers of BSNL and MTNL for the last three years is given in the Statement (See below).

(b) BSNL and MTNL are taking several initiatives to promote landline fixed phones. Some of these are:

(i) Providing phone plus services free of cost.

(ii) Sulabh plan is introduced to cater low-end demand.

(iii) Second Basic Phone (B-fone) connection for internet purpose is offered at concessional rate.

(K/) Special promotional schemes like free registration in On-demand areas, free installation, rent-waiver for the disconnection period etc. are introduced on time-to-time basis.

(v) Launch of Broadband services on landline phones at very attractive tariffs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Shift to the advance technology is continuous process and accordingly churn of landline phone to mobile service is a worldwide phenomena. The Government PSUs have taken steps to market landlines as cheapest with clear voice besides several other initiatives detailed in para (b) above. These PSUs are modernizing the network, offering new services at affordable rates, improving customer relations and offering Broad band services, to retain landline customers.

Statement

No. of Land line Phones Surrendered/Disconnection in BSNL/MTNL during last three years

S.No.	Name of Circle	DESL Disconnected during the year		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
A. BSNL				
1.	Andman & Nicobar	1333	1381	2989
2.	Andhra Pradesh	293030	468426	489344
3.	Assam	8791	31085	27314
4.	Bihar	20908	54802	34006
5.	Chhattisgarh	18132	19278	28964
6.	Gujarat	180517	395534	337630
7.	Haryana	29284	66473	122016
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5850	38306	21225
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	7852	10517	10185
10.	Jharkhand	16042	19038	22198
11.	Karnataka	183286	307930	310218
12.	Kerala	53264	92245	128945
13.	Madhya Pradesh	56475	77305	105378
14.	Maharashtra	234109	472548	406823
15.	North East-I	4955	5587	12559
16.	North East-ll	7598	3425	11182
17.	Orissa	40239	64924	36137
18.	Punjab	55771	161694	199519
19.	Rajasthan	55465	112673	143775

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Tamil Nadu	240359	306407	297767
21.	Uttaranchal	11566	29918	106650
22.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	68844	119552	105020
23.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	35227	92868	100680
24.	West Bengal	11334	39640	44845
25.	Kolkata	84831	125441	167607
26.	Chennai	68474	143138	144076
	TOTAL	1793536	3260135	3417052
B	MTNL			
	Delhi	66851	190592	128795
	Murnbai	104387	186650	163643
	TOTAL	171238	377242	292438

Indian Fonts in Computer Languages

1923. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are mandating that computers in/for India should have Indian Languages fonts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMED): (a) to (c) The matter is under consideration of the Government.